

Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of correlating an image with information associated with the image comprising:
 - identifying image metadata for the image, wherein the image metadata includes information associated with conditions at the time of image capture;
 - searching one or more information sources using parameters in the image metadata to collect inference information from the information sources, the inference information including field of view information and location identification information; and
 - displaying the image inference information for user selection.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - receiving one or more inputs from the user identifying selected inference information; and
 - adding the selected inference information to an image file for the image.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - receiving one or more inputs from the user identifying selected inference information; and
 - adding the selected inference information to an inference metadata file linked to the image.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the image metadata includes parameters selected from the group consisting of:
 - time of image capture;
 - date of image capture;
 - location of image capture;
 - direction of image capture device during image capture; and
 - angle of image capture device during image capture.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the image metadata includes a latitude and longitude of the image capture device.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the image metadata includes location information generated by tracking multiple earth-orbiting satellites.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
printing the image, the image metadata, and selected inference information.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the inference information is selected from the group consisting of:
landmarks located near the image;
weather at the time of image capture;
information related to the location where the image was captured; and
objects that are within the field of view of the image capture device.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
searching a first database using the image metadata to identify the inference information; and
searching a second database using the inference information to identify additional inference information.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said image metadata is associated with a series of images taken over a period of time.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said image metadata is associated with a series of images taken while the location of the image capture device was changing.

12. (Currently Amended) A system for correlating an image with inference information comprising:

means for receiving an image file including image data and image metadata;

means for searching an information source using the image metadata to identify image inference information, the inference information including location identification and at least one other type of data based on the image metadata; and

means for displaying the image inference information for user selection.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12 comprising:

means for receiving one or more inputs from the user identifying selected inference information; and

means for adding the selected inference information to an image file for the image.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12 comprising:

means for receiving one or more inputs from the user identifying selected inference information; and

means for adding the selected inference information to an inference metadata file linked to the image.

15. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein the image metadata includes parameters selected from the group consisting of:

time of image capture;

date of image capture;

location of image capture;

direction of image capture device during image capture; and

angle of image capture device during image capture.

16. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein the conditions at the time of image capture include a latitude and longitude of the image capture device.

17. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein the conditions at the time of image capture include location information generated by tracking multiple earth-orbiting satellites.

18. (Original) The system of claim 12 further comprising:
means for printing the image, the image metadata, and selected inference information.

19. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein the inference information is selected from the group consisting of:
landmarks located near the image;
weather at the time of image capture;
information related to the location where the image was captured; and
objects that are within the field of view of the image capture device.

20. (Original) The system of claim 12 further comprising:
means for searching a first database using the image metadata to identify the inference information; and
means for searching a second database using the inference information to identify additional inference information.

21. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein said image metadata is associated with a series of images taken over a period of time.

22. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein said image metadata is associated with a series of images taken while the location of the image capture device was changing.

23. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:
storing image data representing pixels in a captured image;
storing image metadata representing data associated with conditions at the time that the image was captured;
generating inference metadata by searching electronic information databases using at least a portion of the image metadata;
matching the inference metadata with the image data; and
calculating a confidence factor relating to the matched inference metadata to rate how closely the inference metadata matches the captured image.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23 further comprising:
storing an ~~identify~~ identity of a person supervising the match.

25. (New) A method of correlating an image with information associated with the image comprising:
identifying image metadata for the image, wherein the image metadata includes information associated with conditions at the time of image capture;
searching one or more information sources using parameters in the image metadata to collect inference information including at least a location name;
searching one or more information sources using parameters in the inference information to collect additional inference information about a location associated with the location name; and
displaying the image inference information for user selection.

26. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein the additional inference information includes nearby landmarks for the location associated with the location name.

27. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein the additional inference information includes flora and fauna that can be found at the location associated with the location name.

28. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein the additional inference information includes atmospheric conditions for the location associated with the location name at time of image capture.

29. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein the image metadata includes field of view metadata.

30. (New) The method of claim 29 further comprising using the field of view metadata to identify objects and events that appear in the image or a background of the image.

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